

Infidelity should be a criminal offense

By D.J. Johnson
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(U-WIRE) BOWLING GREEN, Ohio - Have you ever dreamed of the perfect mate? Since we aren't all born and raised the same way, we all probably want something a little different. I might want someone who is gentle and calm, while you may want someone who is loud and outgoing. I want someone who is short and lean while you want someone who is toned and agile. We are all entitled to our preferences, and it's the differences in people that make us happy.

But even with my little knowledge of love and romance, there is one thing that I'm sure that

will spoil even the kinkiest of couples this Valentine's Day. No matter if you're black or white, male or female, young or old, I think anyone can honestly say that one of the most fearsome components in a relationship is the concept of "the affair."

Look at this hypothetical situation: You've bought your girlfriend a large teddy bear for Friday's special holiday. She specifically told you not to get her anything, but you know more than anyone else that she wants the biggest toys on the shelf. You've made it to your room, and lo and behold, you find her and your best buddy lying on the floor, making it further around the baseball diamond than you ever had before. Because of human nature, your rage

and adrenaline build up so high that you end up killing both of the offenders.

The murderer in that story is most likely going to jail, as he should, but have you ever stopped to think of why unfaithfulness isn't a crime?

The U.S. government puts a lot of time into its articulation of marital law. Certain ordained individuals are required to attend the ceremonies, the government forbids whom they deem to be "participants of an alternate lifestyle" to tie the knot, and most importantly, the high-profile ceremony not only has a symbolic meaning, but a legal one as well. Not only according to God, but according to the state of Ohio, you are one.

So if the government puts so much emphasis on marriage, then why don't they care when someone knowingly goes out of there way to break that commitment and defile any type of promise they ever had with their spouse? The law allows you to get a divorce and the judge might yell at him or her for a little while, but what consolation is that?

Since the U.S. government is "busy" with more "important" issues like Iraq and North Korea, it's likely that there won't be any enforcement of a potential law to forbid this kind of behavior. Thus, we have to do things on our own to make sure this Feb. 14 won't stick in our diaries as nostalgia from Hell. For example, we have to stop romanticizing this behavior. I've heard men and women alike say that "kissing"

someone isn't being unfaithful. They constantly plea that there are certain things, which are still sexual in nature, that are constituted as cheating. The truth is, however, that if you can't tell him or her what you've done, then it's probably something you didn't need to do.

Sounds like common sense. But when reality checks us, we realize that cheating is an issue that can be battled with this common sense.

The other resolution is to be brutally honest. "Look, honey, I don't know how to say this without hurting you, but the truth is that I am no longer attracted to you." Wouldn't you scream if you heard this? Is he/she saying that I became uglier? How horrible! But the truth to this is that this is a pain that goes away. I know from experience that

by hearing this, you'll be upset in the short-run, but the pain doesn't start to compare to learning that you're so unattractive now that I've been sleeping with this other girl for three weeks. You can make attempts to prettify yourself, maybe by dieting or using acne medication. But if he or she still feels the same way, then understand that people have other tastes and wants something different.

The truth is that your chances of being crushed on Valentine's Day are pretty low. But don't be one of the jerks that ruins someone's life by satisfying your sexual desires with someone else. End the relationship or talk things out. You'll surprise yourself with how much you accomplish.

Abstinence helps form tight emotional bond for some U. Oregon students

By Roman Gokhman
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(U-WIRE) EUGENE, Ore. - An old University of Oregon campus legend says the Pioneer Mother -- the statue of a female Oregon Trail pioneer next to Gerlinger Hall -- stands up every time a virgin walks by. While most students have never seen the Pioneer Mother leave her chair, they must all confront the decision of whether to have sex.

Ramah Leith, a councilor at the Health Education Program at the

University Health Center, said that even though it is difficult to determine how many college students have had sexual relationships, students are more likely to be sexually active because of the intimacy a tight-knit community creates.

However, some University students say love can exist without sex in today's world.

University senior Stephanie Garber and her boyfriend, Daniel Hemmerich, have been dating exclusively for more than a year and have not had sex.

They said that while some

college-age people avoid sex because they fear accidental pregnancy or disease, their Christian faith guided their choice.

"[Sex] is a very real and symbolic union between a man and a woman that was designed by God to reflect the relationship between [God] and the world," Hemmerich said. He said sex is a commitment for a permanent relationship -- marriage.

Like other couples, Hemmerich and Garber "do all the normal things," like seeing concerts, watching movies, going on walks together and cuddling.

In a relationship, it is important to meet challenges, like sex, up front, the couple said.

"Nobody said it would be easy, but that's OK," Garber said. "Most things that are good are not easy."

Hemmerich added this is what makes abstinence worthwhile.

Leith said the best way for couples to make choices about their sexual lives is to talk about it.

"The key is communication -- depending on how committed they are to each other and how emotionally ready they are," she said.

Garber agrees talking about emotions is important in a relationship.

"[Sex] is not a subject we shy away from," she said.

University students Eric Baker and Amy Farris, who have also dated for more than a year and are now engaged, agree that communication is necessary for a relationship to work without sex.

"We're open with each other -- we talk about everything," Baker said.

Baker and Farris said they adhere to a relationship without sex

also because of their Christian faith, and because they owe it to each other.

"Sometimes it's hard, but it's not that hard when you think about why you're doing it," Farris said.

While some students are committed to abstinence, they do have to deal with peer pressure.

"[Abstinence] is not exactly a popular thing," Garber said. "It ... holds this aura that you should be embarrassed, but I think that's dumb. I think there are a lot more virgins out there than would like to admit it."

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